

REMARKS

Claims 2-48 are in the application and were rejected under Section 112, 102 and/or 103.

Although Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection under Section 112 (based on the disclosure, for example, at page 100, lines 20-26, etc.), in order to expedite prosecution Applicant has amended claim 40. If there are any further questions in this regard, Applicant requests an opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner.

As for the rejections under Sections 102 and 103, all such rejections are based on Van Aken, which was filed on July 10, 1998. Applicant's application now claims priority going back to App. Ser. No. 09/113,033, which was filed on July 9, 1998 (Applicant's amendment to the specification reflects this claim for priority). Thus, Applicant submits that the Van Aken reference is not prior art to the present application, and accordingly Applicant requests that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

No new matter has been added. Applicant submits that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record.

Please charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0251.

If there are any questions regarding the foregoing, Applicant's attorney requests an opportunity to discuss such matters with the Examiner by way of a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

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This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/198,591, filed November 23, 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/113,033, filed July 9, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,118,521, and Ser. No. 09/471,300, filed December 23, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,249,348